

CONNECTION

LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA
STATE LIBRARY
FOUNDED 1850*Library of California News*

Meet our Library of California Libraries: School Libraries

By Barbara Jeffus*School Library Consultant,
California Department of Education*

If every public school in California had a library, there would be over 8,000 school libraries, or as many as the total number of libraries of all types proclaimed in the Library of California slogan, "One Library, 8,000 Doors." While 98 percent of the California public schools recently reported having a place designated as the library, having a place and having a dynamic school library program are not synonymous. Equally at odds is having a place versus having a library able to participate as an equal partner in the Library of California. Fortunately, quality school libraries do exist in California.

According to the American Association of School Libraries' publication *Information Power, Building Partnerships for Learning* (www.ala.org/aasl/ip_implementation.html), the school library media program's mission should be to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. In today's school library, the library media teacher makes this theoretical mission concrete. The library media teacher joins the school library to the educational process.

But what is a library media teacher? Called a library media specialist in most states, the California library media teacher is a librarian with two credentials: one for K-12 classroom teaching and one for library services. The school library media teacher is frequently the

lone ringmaster for a bustling three-ring circus: he or she wears an array of professional hats. The library media teacher is an instructional partner with classroom teachers, an information specialist, a program administrator and, always, a teacher. The library media teacher is critical in making a good library program happen. And a good library program, research proves, builds literate, academically excellent, and information-seeking students who know how to find information and how to use it.

Another vital feature of a dynamic school library is its collection, which should include two key elements. First, the collection should provide a wide variety of resources integral to the curriculum in as many formats and in as many reading levels as are available. The collection is usually the product of the library media teacher and the classroom teacher working together. It is the backbone of a responsive, assignment-related library, rich in reference materials and indexed periodicals, whose instructors help students select and use the appropriate resource to help complete their classroom assignments. Second, school library collections should focus on literacy. California academic content standards hold that ninth and tenth grade students should independently read about one and one-half million words annually (www.cde.ca.gov/board/). More than a million words means lots of reading and a

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LoC budget and other issues highlight August board meeting

The Library of California board met on August 15-16 in San Diego, California to grapple with a number of Library of California program issues including the LoC budget and its effect on the seven LoC regional library networks and the overall statewide program. Here is a summary of this and other issues the board considered:

1. Library of California Budget

In a budget letter from the State Department of Finance (DoF), state agencies are being directed to draft contingency budget proposals for decreasing their budgets by three, five, and 10 percent for the 2002/03 state fiscal year. State operations and local assistance programs are to be included in the proposal sent to the DoF. How the contingency plans could affect LoC programs will depend on the amount of money in the 2002/03 state budget.

The board approved the following budget-related actions:

- Thirty percent will be withheld from the Interlibrary Loan Compensation Pilot program funds for fiscal year 2001/02 to ensure that adequate funds are available to cover an unknown quantity of transactions. Should funds remain at the end of the fiscal year, they are to be distributed equitably to all participants in a final payment.
- The regional library networks will receive additional local assistance funds totaling around \$1.7 million. This funding is in addition to the \$1.4 million allocated by the board at the June 2001 meeting. The State Librarian will issue claim forms and other related materials so the regional library networks can claim their final budget allocation using the funding allocation formula the LoC board adopted at the August 2001 meeting.
- The recommended fiscal year 2001/02 CLSA baseline budget will be \$21,120,000, and that \$3.5 million in additional funding will be added to the 2002/03 budget.

2. Regional Library Network Development

Paul Smith, general counsel for the California State Library, gave a presentation to the LCB regarding the Attorney General's opinion concerning CLSA Systems and their ability to become members of the LoC. The board asked staff to develop guidelines for reviewing the LoC applications based on the Attorney General's Opinion, and to report to the

board on the criteria developed to evaluate their applications as well as recommendations about the Systems becoming members of the regional library networks. The Attorney General's Opinion can be found on the AG web site at <http://caag.state.ca.us/opinions/published/01jul.htm>.

The board asked that staff revisit the board's policy of accepting members and participating libraries only on an annual basis to shorten the membership application approval process, and to provide a report on this issue to the board at the November 2001 meeting.

The board approved Los Angeles City College and Los Angeles Valley College becoming members of the Arroyo Seco Library Network, and Evergreen Valley College and San Jose City College becoming members of the Golden Gateway Library Network.

3. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Direct Loan Program

Thirty percent of the Interlibrary Loan Compensation Pilot program funding is being held in reserve as no solid estimate of ILL transactions exists (see Item no. 1).

4. CLSA Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Direct Loan Program

The LoC board directed the board's chief executive officer to withhold five percent of all CLSA ILL and Direct Loan program reimbursement payments for the 2001/02 fiscal year to ensure payment of all transaction reimbursement requests.

5. CLSA System Reference

The LoC board approved the CLSA System Population and Membership figures for use in allocating CLSA System Reference Program funds for fiscal year 2001/02.

6. Legislation

- The LoC board authorized the board president or his designee to take appropriate action in support of increased funding for the Library Services and Technology Act for fiscal year 2002/03 and for reauthorization of LSTA in 2003/04.
- The LoC authorized the board president or his designee to communicate the board's position of support for expanding the California Teleconnect Fund on behalf of California libraries to members of the California Public Utilities Commission.

LIBRARY

BOOKSALES

Not just another web site...

By Steve Mauer

Library Book Sales Project consultant

While I was on vacation, I desperately needed something to read, so I dragged my family to the annual library book sale in the rural northern California town where we were staying. Because it was late in the day, the library was selling hundreds of remaining books for a “buck a bag.” For almost 20 years, I have been a dealer in old and rare books, but I rarely attend library sales to obtain stock. At

this sale, however, I found three boxes of very saleable books, among them a fine dust jacket copy of *The Secret Language of Snow*, author Terry William's first book whose Internet price ranges from \$275 to \$800. Upon returning from our trip, I cataloged the books from my three boxes

and uploaded them onto the Internet. The total retail value of my “bootie”—priced accordingly “to sell” was \$1,405 “I had spent only six dollars at the library sale.”

I tell this story not to gloat about my treasure, but to point out a way for libraries to get the most out of selling their books.

One of the California State Library's (CSL) new projects is Librarybooksales.org, a website that enables libraries to appraise their used books and to upload their better books for sale on the Internet. Books that libraries might previously have sold for a dollar or less may easily sell for more than \$15 on the Internet. And rare books can sell for serious money. Using the website, libraries should see profits far greater than what traditional book sales normally generate. In short, libraries could make more money to support library programs or services.

Librarybooksales.org evolved as an offshoot of the California Rural Library Initiative. Librarybooksales.org was first called Book Rendezvous, a project the CSL started to enable underfunded, geographically remote libraries to raise much needed monies. At the start, rural libraries teamed up and consolidated their book sales in

more cosmopolitan areas. When the Internet came along though, those cosmopolitan boundaries shattered, and the world became the instant marketplace. Thus, the CSL created Librarybooksales.org to provide a convenient point of sale for Friends of the Library groups in rural areas of California.

Although the website requires some data entry, data entry is minimal because many of the book information fields are drop-down menus that require no typing. Each data entry field has an accompanying “tip” or FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) that aids the user and teaches him/her about the finer points of book collecting and determining the monetary value of books. If the Friends Group's books are already in some sort of database, this information can be exported to a template for uploading onto the Librarybooksales.org.

The project is currently free of charge to any public library in California. Eventually a nominal commission based on books sold through the project will fund the project. The signup procedure takes only a short time before users can take advantage of the site.

The Internet is here to stay. Early book vending sites have morphed into barely distinguishable images of their former selves, have merged with the huge retailers, or have receded into obscurity. Librarybooksales.org offers a fresh start for helping Friends groups and other users determine the value of donated books they plan to sell.

This project is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered in California by the State Librarian.

Interested parties can visit the Librarybooksales.org website, www.librarybooksales.org, to obtain general information or to determine the value of a book. For further information, contact Steve Mauer, library book sales project consultant, at (916) 441-4609, or by email to mauer@librarybooksales.org, or contact Carla Lehn, literacy consultant, CSL, at (916) 653-7743, or by email to clehn@library.ca.gov.

An article about Book Rendezvous appeared in the July 2000 issue of *Connection*. Articles about various aspects of the California Rural Library Initiative have appeared in the August and September 2000 and February, March, and July 2001 issues of *Connection*.



LSTA application packet available for fiscal year 2002/03 grants

State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr has announced that federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds will be available for fiscal year 2002/2003. Application materials are available via the Internet or will be mailed on request to any interested person. Approved grant projects will begin on October 1, 2002, and conclude on September 30, 2003.

LSTA is federally-funded through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), but is state-administered. The program provides local assistance grants for resource sharing, multitype library networking, and targeted services to the underserved, disadvantaged, geographically isolated, or illiterate. Academic, corporate, institutional, public, school, and special libraries are all eligible for funding.

Applying for LSTA funding is a two-step process. First, libraries must submit a proposal outlining the library program, concept, or service to be funded. Since LSTA is a competitive grant program, each proposal will be judged on its competitiveness with other submitted proposals. The State Librarian will send a letter to all of the libraries submitting LSTA proposals and advise them

of the proposal's competitiveness. These advice letters are usually mailed in April. The second step is completing and submitting a grant application, which must be received in the Library Development Services bureau of the CSL in early June. The State Librarian then decides which projects will receive LSTA funding. Decisions are confirmed in a notification letter to each applicant.

If you would like to apply for an LSTA grant for 2002/03 or are interested in the program and wish to know more about it, an updated application packet will be available on the CSL web site at www.library.ca.gov. Go to "Highlights" and click on LSTA grants. You can also send your request, including a mailing label, to: Library Development Services, ATTN: LSTA Application Packet, California State Library, P.O. Box 942837, Sacramento, CA 94237-0001.

For further information, contact Jay Cunningham, LSTA coordinator, CSL, at (916) 653-8112, or by email to jcunningham@library.ca.gov. For general information about IMLS, visit their web site at www.imls.gov.



from page 1 • School Libraries

heavy demand for enticing, up-to-date and relevant books in school libraries. The California Public School Library Act of 1998 dedicates unprecedented, ongoing funding to improve school library collections. The original apportionment of \$158.5 million per year has been enhanced by \$25 million for classroom libraries, initiated by Governor Davis in 1999. And for the second year, limited school libraries (i.e., those with very few books per student), can seek grants from the Governor's Book Fund, a special literacy project spearheaded by First Lady Sharon Davis in coordination with the California State Library Foundation (<http://literacynet.org/govfund>).

While school libraries are frequently perceived as the weakest link among libraries in California, the California Department of Education's California Basic Educational Demographic Survey, (www.cde.ca.gov/dataquest) shows that 1,249 schools are eligible for participation in the Library of California because they have a library media teacher at the school site. This means that school libraries created and

sustained by good library media teachers, supported by committed school principals, well-developed collections, appropriate technologies, cooperation with other types of libraries, and well-developed connections to students and teachers could be ready to supplement already dynamic programs through the Library of California.

For California school library information, including current statistics and funding information, visit the California Department of Education web site at www.cde.ca.gov/library. For further information about school libraries in California, contact Barbara Jeffus at (916) 654-6161, or by email to BJeffus@cde.ca.gov.

For information about the Governor's Book Fund, see the August 2000 and May 2001 issues of Connection. You can also visit their web site at <http://literacynet.org/govfund> for details about the program, including a list of last year's grant recipients and current application information.

Profiles

Connection will regularly profile diverse individual libraries throughout California. If you know of a library whose programs would be of interest to California's library community, please call or email *Connection's* editors.



Barbie brings summer fun to community library

This summer, patrons have been stopping in the foyer of Sacramento's Belle Coolidge Community Library to reflect on childhood and to compare notes on what songwriter John Hiatt calls America's "little plastic voodoo": the Barbie doll. Shadow boxed inside the library's grand display case, with an explanatory timeline running beneath it, is one of northern California's finest Barbie collections.

A bustling community library may seem, at first, a strange place for a Barbie collection, but Barbie dolls, says Belle Coolidge Community Library branch manager, Bess Chen, "are at the heart of the American experience." Chen says that "men and women, old and young, are drawn to the Barbie dolls and tell their friends about the exhibit. Everyone, it seems, grew up with Barbies." The Barbie exhibit "allows patrons to simultaneously celebrate our American culture and our neighborhood in a place where we share resources and experiences: the library" says Chen.

The Barbie doll collection, which is Belle Coolidge Community Library's most popular display, belongs to Sam Pena, a long time shelper at the library. Pena has exhibited his impeccable collection at his workplace yearly since 1992, and he offers patrons a wealth of information about Barbie collecting. For example, most patrons assume the exhibit's oldest, 1959, Barbie is the most valuable: it is not. Pena enthusiastically tells patrons that the 1966 "American Girl," appraised at \$1500, is the collection treasure because of her vibrant face coloring and because she was the first Barbie to have bendable legs. Pena also points out that the Hispanic and African American Barbies don't appear on his timeline until 1980, twenty-one years after Mattel Toys founders, Ruth and Elliot Handler, introduced Barbie at the American Toy Fair in New York City in February 1959.

Although Barbie invites controversy for her reductive portrayal of minorities and women, Pena reminds viewers that she is a doll, a toy. Good or bad, Barbie is indeed part of our culture, as Chen says. In 1976, in fact, Barbie was given a place in "America's Time Capsule" at the nation's bicentennial celebration, cementing her in our country's history.



Provider: InFoPeople InFoPeople Distance Education Program

InFoPeople will offer at least eight web-based courses during 2001. For this year, these courses are offered free of charge to participants. They are being fully supported by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant from the California State Library.

Course: Intermediate HTML: Setting the Table

Dates and Locations:

Web-based courses during 2001

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/52>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Introduction to HTML: Tag You're It!

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, September 18

San Jose Public Library

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/53>

Provider: CALTAC

Course: Technology Survival Skills for Library Trustees and Commissioners

Dates and locations:

September 22:

San Francisco Public Library, 9 a.m. to noon

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

September 29:

City of Cerritos Council Chambers, 9 a.m. to noon.

18125 Bloomfield Ave., Cerritos, CA 90725

Please send your name, address, telephone, e-mail information, together with your check made payable to "CALTAC" to:

If registering for the San Francisco Workshop:

Mark Weinberger

49 Creston Ave., Daly City, CA 94015

If registering for the Cerritos Workshop:

Virginia Warren

97 Aspen Way, Rolling Hill Estates, CA 90274

Provider: Gas Company

Course: Designing Sustainable Libraries

Date and location:

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, 8:30AM-12:30PM

The Gas Company Energy Resource Center

9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey, CA

Pre-registration required (800) 427-6584

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Common Sense Project Management

Date and location:

Thursday, September 13

Belvedere - Tiburon Public Library

(SF area - North Bay)

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/48>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Mastering Tough Public Service Situations

Dates and location:

Wednesday, October 3

Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library

Thursday, October 4

Pleasant Hill

Contra Costa County Library Gates Lab

Tuesday, October 16

Los Angeles Public Library

Mid-Valley Regional Branch

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/55>

Provider: UCLA Graduate School of Education and

Information Studies, Department of Information Studies

Course: Web Design Using Photoshop and Dreamweaver

Date: November 9, 9:30AM-3:30PM

Course: Health Information at Your Fingertips!

Date: November 16, 9:30AM-1PM

Course: Collection Development 101

Date: December 7, 9AM-4PM

<http://is.gseis.ucla.edu/conted>

Provider: InfoPeople

**Course: Survival Skills for School Librarians:
Using Web Technology**

Dates and locations:

Monday, September 17

Fresno County Public Library Gates Computer Lab

Monday, October 1

Los Angeles Public Library

Monday, October 22

National City Public Library

Friday, November 9

San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/57>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Computer and Internet Troubleshooting 101

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, September 25

Sacramento County Office of Education

Tuesday, October 9

Riverside County Library-Robidoux Branch

Tuesday, October 23

Bakersfield-Beale Memorial Library

Kern County Library

Wednesday, October 31

Vallejo-John F. Kennedy Library Branch

Solano County Library

Wednesday, November 7

National City Public Library

Monday, November 19

San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

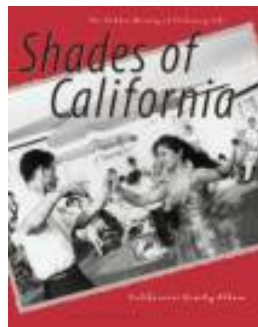
Friday, December 7

Los Angeles Public Library

Electronic Resources Training Center

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/51>

Shades of California turns into a book



The Shades of California project, which involved 20 public libraries around the state in making copies of pictures from family photo albums, will soon appear in libraries around the state in book form. The project began ten years ago at Los Angeles Public Library with a project initiated by Carolyn Kozo Cole to collect pictures from the albums of minority families. At the instigation of Dr. Kevin Starr, the State Librarian, it became an LSTA-funded statewide project, and more than 6,000 photos were added to public library archives around the state.

Heyday Books of Berkeley hired a photo editor, Kimi Hill, to make a selection of the photos for a book. The book, *Shades of California: The Hidden Beauty of Ordinary Life*, will be available in bookstores in the fall. Robert Daseler, communications officer at the California State Library, wrote an introduction for the book, describing the special beauty of these pictures. Carolyn Cole and Katherine Kobayashi of Los Angeles Public Library have supplied an appendix describing the origins of the project.

The earliest pictures were taken in the 1880s, but the bulk of them belong to the first six decades of the 20th century. They come from communities in every part of the state, and they show family life and everyday living as viewed by ordinary people. As Daseler points out in his introduction, there is a truthfulness to these pictures that one does not find in commercial photography. The photographers did not take these pictures for us; they took them for themselves, to preserve an image and save it from the ravages of time. The subjects of the pictures are people washing a car, posing in a 1920s roadster, dancing at a wedding reception, having their hair brushed, or performing a soft-shoe routine in somebody's front yard. The pictures frequently are over-exposed or slightly out of focus, but again and again they catch a moment in life and hold its image for us to admire.

Al Bennett, who retired in June, administered the Shades of California project at the CSL.

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Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Readers' Advisory on the Web

Dates and Locations:

Wednesday, October 24

San Francisco Public Library

Wednesday, November 28

Los Angeles Public Library

Electronic Resources Training Center

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/49>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Virtual Reference: Is it for you?

Dates and Locations:

Monday, September 24

Vallejo-John F. Kennedy Library Branch

Wednesday, October 17

Los Angeles Public Library

Electronic Resources Training Center

Wednesday, October 31

Fresno County Public Library Gates Computer Lab

Friday, November 16

Sacramento County Office of Education

Friday, November 30

Ventura County Library-E.P.Foster

Monday, December 10

San Jose Public Library - GATES Lab

To register for this workshop:

Use the online registration form at

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/60>

Provider: InFoPeople

Course: Getting the Most from PowerPoint

Dates and locations:

Tuesday, Sept 25

Vallejo-John F. Kennedy Library Branch

Friday, Oct 19

Los Angeles Public Library Electronic Resources

Tuesday, Oct 30

San Francisco Public Library

Thursday, Nov 15

Bakersfield-Beale Memorial Library

Tuesday, Nov 27

Ventura County Library-E.P.Foster

Tuesday, Dec 11, Salinas Public Library

To register for this workshop:

Use the online registration form at

<http://infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/10>

2001

October

October 14-20, 2001

Teen Read Week

October 31-November 2, 2001

California School Libraries Association (CSLA), Annual Conference, Long Beach

November

November 2-5, 2001

California Library Association (CLA), Annual Conference, Long Beach

November 5-6, 2001

Library of California board meeting, Long Beach

November 14-18, 2001

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference, Indianapolis

2002

January 18-23, 2002

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans

March 13-16, 2002

Public Libraries Association (PLA) National Conference, Phoenix

April 14-20, 2002

National Library Week

June 13-20, 2002

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Atlanta

November 15-18, 2002

California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference, Sacramento

CONNECTION

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Articles for inclusion in a
future issue of the
Connection are welcomed.
Please submit articles or
suggestions to the *Connection*
editor, Sarah Dalton.



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